

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an image pickup apparatus, timer starts a time measuring operation when a shutter button is pressed. When a time  $T_1$  is measured by timer, the image from CCD 1 is output as a background image to a background image buffer. In addition, when a time  $(T_1+T_2)$  is measured by timer, the image from CCD 1 is output as a normal image to a region extracting portion and image compressing portion. The background image mainly refers to an image only including a background. The normal image mainly refers to an image with an object of interest arranged in front of the background.

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